



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Francesco Pappalardo et al.
Application No. : 09/778,669
Filed : February 7, 2001
For : METHOD FOR PROCESSING FUZZY INFERENCES AND
CORRESPONDING PROCESSING STRUCTURE

Examiner : Joseph P. Hirl
Art Unit : 2121
Docket No. : 851763.401
Date : November 10, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

RULE 131 DECLARATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents:

I, Francesco Pappalardo, residing at Via Madonna della Scala, 10, Paterno',
Catania - Italy, declare as follows:

I am an original, first, and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and
for which a patent is sought for the application identified above.

I was in possession of the invention defined by the claims of the application
identified above ("the present application") prior to October 12, 1999. Attached as Appendix A
is a Patent Proposal that I signed on September 28, 1999 which describes in detail the claimed
invention (see English translation included in Appendix A). For example, with respect to claim 1
of the present application, the Patent Proposal describes a method for controlling the operation of
a structure for processing fuzzy inferences by organizing a store for storing values of a quantity
which are already available and checking at the time of identification of a new value of the

quantity, whether the new value is already present in the store (see page 5, paragraph 3 to page 6, paragraph 2 of the English translation annexed herewith)

I provided the Patent Proposal to the internal intellectual property department of STMicroelectronics S.r.l. ("ST"), my employer and the assignee of the present application. The attached Patent Proposal indicates that the ST intellectual property department assigned a reference code to the Patent Proposal on October 5, 1999.

My understanding, based on information and belief, is that the Patent Proposal was evaluated internally by ST and was sent to the law firm of Buzzi, Notaro & Antonielli. Attached as Appendix B is a letter dated December 9, 1999 (with English translation) from the ST intellectual property department enclosing the Patent Proposal and requesting that a European Patent application be prepared and filed. A note at the top of the letter indicates that the letter was received at Buzzi, Notaro & Antonielli on December 13, 1999.

My understanding, based on information and belief, is that Mr. Luciano Bosotti of Buzzi, Notaro & Antonielli prepared and sent a draft patent application to the ST intellectual property department. Attached as Appendix C is a letter (with English translation) dated December 28, 1999 from Mr. Bosotti to the ST intellectual property department enclosing the draft patent application.

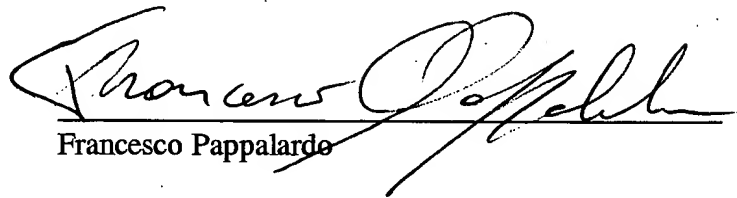
I believe that, shortly thereafter, I was given a copy of the draft patent application for my review. I studied the patent application in detail and provided suggestions for changes to Mr. Bosotti. Attached as Appendix D is a letter (with English translation) sent to Mr. Bosotti on January 26, 2000 which provides some suggestions for changes to the application. My understanding is that Mr. Bosotti revised the application as suggested and filed the revised application as European Patent Application No. 00830082.4 on February 8, 2000.

In summary, my co-inventors and I conceived of the claimed invention prior to October 12, 1999, and the invention was diligently reduced to practice by preparing and filing the European Patent Application No. 00830082.4 on February 8, 2000.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States

Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

11/11/03
Date



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